PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	R. Baker, et al.	
Serial No.:	07/827,187 (Case T-1092Y)	**Art Unit:** 1203
Filed:	January 18, 1992	
Entitled:	IMIDAZOLE, TRIAZOLE AND TETRAZOLE DERIVATIVES	**Examiner:** C. Chang

The Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

SUBMISSION OF PRIORITY DOCUMENTS

Sir:

Enclosed is the following British Priority Documents as stated in the Declaration and Power of Attorney for the above-identified application.

Number	Date
9102222.8	01 February 1991
9106917.9	03 April 1991
9113415.5	21 June 1991
9122451.9	23 October 1991

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date appearing below.

MERCK & CO., INC.

By _____ Date 11/22/93

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

Robert J. North
Reg. 27,366
Attorney for Applicants

MERCK & CO., INC.
P.O. Box 2000 - RY 60-30
Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907
Telephone No. (908) 594-7262

Date: November 22, 1993

The Patent Office

The Patent Office
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent
NP9 1RH

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 62(3) of the Patents and Designs Act 1907, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the Patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or the inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.

Signed

Dated 11th November 1991

2d, 2e and 2f: *If there are further applicants please provide details on a separate sheet of paper.*

❑ **Second applicant** ***(if any)***

2d If you are applying as a corporate body please give:

Corporate name

Country *(and State of incorporation, if appropriate)*

2e If you are applying as an individual or one of a partnership please give [redacted]:

Surname

Forenames

2f **In all cases**, please give the following details:

Address

UK postcode *(if applicable)*

Country

ADP number *(if known)*

❸ *An address for service in the United Kingdom must be supplied*

Please mark correct box

❸ Address for service details

3a Have you appointed an agent to deal with your application?

Yes [x] No [ ] ➡ ***go to 3b***

⬇ ***please give details below***

Agent's name: Dr. J. Thompson

Agent's address: Merck & Co., Inc.
European Patent Department
Terlings Park
Eastwick Road
Harlow, Essex

Postcode: CM20 2QR

Agent's ADP number: 4392742002 ✓

3b: *If you have appointed an agent, all correspondence concerning your application will be sent to the agent's United Kingdom address.*

3b If you have not appointed an agent please give a name and address in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence will be sent:

Name

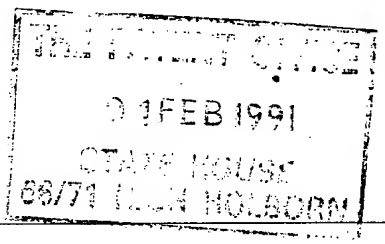
Address

Postcode

Daytime telephone number *(if available)*

ADP number *(if known)*

For official use



1 FEB 1991

-4FEB'91H004C1209 PAT 1 77 UC 15.00

Your reference

9102222.8

Notes

Please type, or write in dark ink using CAPITAL letters. A prescribed fee is payable for a request for grant of a patent. For details, please contact the Patent Office (telephone 071–829 6910).

Rule 16 of the Patents Rules 1990 is the main rule governing the completion and filing of this form.

The Patent Office — Request for grant of a Patent

Form 1/77

Patents Act 1977

❶ Title of invention

1 Please give the title of the invention: Therapeutic Agents

❷ Do not give trading styles, for example, 'Trading as XYZ company', nationality or former names, for example, 'formerly (known as) ABC Ltd' as these are not required.

❷ Applicant's details

❑ **First or only applicant**

2a If you are applying as a corporate body please give:

Corporate name: Merck Sharp & Dohme Limited

Country *(and State of incorporation, if appropriate)*: United Kingdom

2b If you are applying as an individual or one of a partnership please give in full:

Surname

Forenames

2c **In all cases**, please give the following details:

Address: Hertford Road
Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire

UK postcode *(if applicable)*: EN11 9BU

Country: United Kingdom

ADP number *(if known)*: 00597799001

Warning

After an application for a Patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977 and will inform the applicant if such prohibition or restriction is necessary. Applicants resident in the United Kingdom are also reminded that under Section 23, applications may not be filed abroad without written permission unless an application has been filed not less than 6 weeks previously in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction revoked.

❹ Reference number

4 Agent's or applicant's reference number *(if applicable)* T1092

❺ Claiming an earlier application date

5 Are you claiming that this application be treated as having been filed on the date of filing of an earlier application?

Please mark correct box

Yes ☐ No ☒ ➡ ***go to 6***

⬇

please give details below

❑ number of earlier application or patent number

❑ filing date

(day month year)

❑ and the Section of the Patents Act 1977 under which you are claiming:

Please mark correct box

15(4) (Divisional) ☐ 8(3) ☐ 12(6) ☐ 37(4) ☐

❻ Declaration of priority

❻ If you are declaring priority from a PCT Application please enter 'PCT' as the country and enter the country code (for example, GB) as part of the application number.

Please give the date in all number format, for example, 31/05/90 for 31 May 1990.

6 If you are declaring priority from previous application(s), please give:

Country of filing	Priority application number *(if known)*	Filing date *(day, month, year)*

❼ *The answer must be 'No' if:*
- *any applicant is not an inventor*
- *there is an inventor who is not an applicant,* ***or***
- *any applicant is a corporate body.*

❼ Inventorship

7 Are you (the applicant or applicants) the sole inventor or the joint inventors?

Please mark correct box

Yes [ ] No [x] ➡ ***A Statement of Inventorship on Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed (see Rule 15).***

❽ *Please supply duplicates of claim(s), abstract, description and drawing(s).*

❽ Checklist

8a Please fill in the number of sheets for each of the following types of document contained in this application.

Continuation sheets for this Patents Form 1/77	–		
Claim(s)	–	Description	37
Abstract	–	Drawing(s)	–

Please mark correct box(es)

8b Which of the following documents also accompanies the application?

Priority documents *(please state how many)*	–
Translation(s) of Priority documents *(please state how many)*	–
Patents Form 7/77 – Statement of Inventorship and Right to Grant *(please state how many)*	–
Patents Form 9/77 – Preliminary Examination/Search	–
Patents Form 10/77 – Request for Substantive Examination	–

❾ *You or your appointed agent (see Rule 90 of the Patents Rules 1990) must sign this request.*

❾ Request

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Please sign here ➡

Signed J. Thompson Date 1.2.91 *(day month year)*

Dr. J. Thompson
Chartered Patent Agent

A completed fee sheet should preferably accompany the fee.

Please return the completed form, attachments and duplicates where requested, together with the prescribed fee to:

❑ ***The Comptroller***
The Patent Office
State House
66–71 High Holborn
London
WC1R 4TP

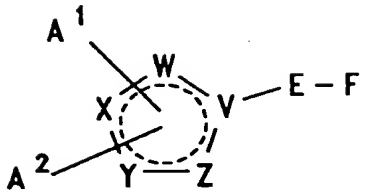
THERAPEUTIC AGENTS

The present invention relates to a class of indole-substituted triazole and tetrazole derivatives which act on 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) receptors, being selective agonists of so-called "5-HT_1-like" receptors. They are therefore useful in the treatment of clinical conditions for which a selective agonist of these receptors is indicated.

5-HT_1-like receptor agonists which exhibit selective vasoconstrictor activity have recently been described as being of use in the treatment of migraine (see, for example, A. Doenicke et al., The Lancet, 1988, Vol. 1, 1309-11). The compounds of the present invention, being selective 5-HT_1-like receptor agonists, are accordingly of particular use in the treatment of migraine and associated conditions, e.g. cluster headache, chronic paroxysmal hemicrania and headache associated with vascular disorders.

EP-A-0313397 describes a class of tryptamine derivatives substituted by a five-membered heteroaliphatic ring, which are stated to be specific to a particular type of "5-HT_1-like" receptor and thus to be effective therapeutic agents for the treatment of clinical conditions, particularly migraine, requiring this activity. However, EP-A-0313397 neither discloses nor suggests the triazole and tetrazole derivatives provided by the present invention.

The present invention provides a compound of formula I, or a salt or prodrug thereof:



(I)

wherein the broken circle represents two non-adjacent double bonds in any position in the five-membered ring;

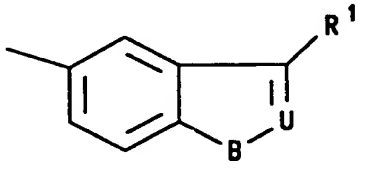
three or four of V, W, X, Y and Z represent nitrogen and the remainder represent carbon;

A^1 represents hydrogen, hydrocarbon, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, $-OR^X$, $-SR^X$, $-NR^XR^Y$, $-NR^XCOR^Y$, $-NR^XCO_2R^Y$, $-NR^XSO_2R^Y$, or $-NR^ZCTNR^XR^Y$;

A^2 represents a non-bonded electron pair when four of V, W, X, Y and Z represent nitrogen and the other represents carbon; or, when three of V, W, X, Y and Z represent nitrogen and the remainder represent carbon, A^2 represents hydrogen, hydrocarbon, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, $-OR^X$, $-SR^X$, $-NR^XR^Y$, $-NR^XCOR^Y$, $-NR^XCO_2R^Y$, $-NR^XSO_2R^Y$, or $-NR^ZCTNR^XR^Y$;

E represents a bond or a straight or branched alkylene chain containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

F represents a group of formula

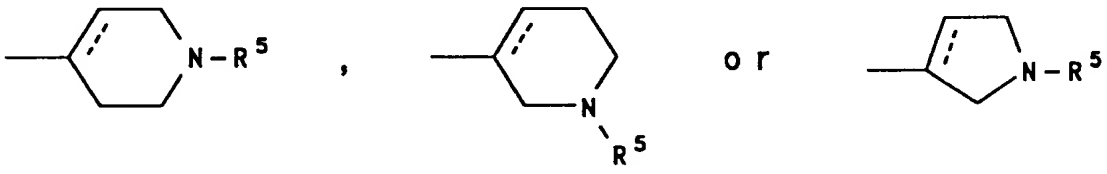


;

U represents nitrogen or C-R^2;

B represents oxygen, sulphur or N-R^3;

R^1 represents $-CH_2.CHR^4.NR^6R^7$ or a group of formula



in which the broken line represents an optional chemical bond;

R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 independently represent hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^X and R^Y independently represent hydrogen or hydrocarbon, or R^X and R^Y together represent a C_{2-6} alkylene group;

R^Z represents hydrogen or hydrocarbon;

T represents oxygen, sulphur or a group of formula =N.G; and

G represents hydrocarbon or an electron-withdrawing group.

For use in medicine, the salts of the compounds of formula I will be non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Other salts may, however, be useful in the preparation of the compounds according to the invention or of their non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of this invention include acid addition salts which may, for example, be formed by mixing a solution of the compound according to the invention with a solution of a pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic acid such as hydrochloric acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, succinic acid, acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, carbonic acid or phosphoric acid. Furthermore, where the compounds of the invention carry an acidic moiety, suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof may include alkali metal salts, e.g. sodium or potassium salts; alkaline earth metal salts, e.g. calcium or magnesium salts; and salts formed with suitable organic ligands, e.g. quaternary ammonium salts.

The term "hydrocarbon" as used herein includes straight-chained, branched and cyclic groups, including heterocyclic groups, containing up to 18 carbon atoms, suitably up to 15 carbon atoms, and conveniently up to 12 carbon atoms. Suitable hydrocarbon groups include C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl.

Suitable alkyl groups include straight-chained and branched alkyl groups containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms. Typical examples include methyl and ethyl groups, and straight-chained or branched propyl and butyl

groups. Particular alkyl groups are methyl, ethyl and t-butyl.

Suitable alkenyl groups include straight-chained and branched alkenyl groups containing from 2 to 6 carbon atoms. Typical examples include vinyl and allyl groups.

Suitable alkynyl groups include straight-chained and branched alkynyl groups containing from 2 to 6 carbon atoms. Typical examples include ethynyl and propargyl groups.

Suitable cycloalkyl groups include groups containing from 3 to 7 carbon atoms. Particular cycloalkyl groups are cyclopropyl and cyclohexyl.

A particular aryl group is phenyl.

Particular aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl groups include benzyl, phenethyl and phenylpropyl.

Suitable heterocycloalkyl groups include azetidinyl, pyrrolidyl, piperidyl, piperazinyl and morpholinyl groups.

Suitable heteroaryl groups include pyridyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyranyl, furyl, benzofuryl, dibenzofuryl, thienyl, benzthienyl, imidazolyl, oxadiazolyl and thiadiazolyl groups.

Particular heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl groups include pyridylmethyl and pyrazinylmethyl.

The hydrocarbon group may in turn be optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, adamantyl, phenyl, halogen, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, C_{1-6} aminoalkyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy, aryloxy, keto, C_{1-3} alkylenedioxy, nitro, cyano, carboxy, C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonyloxy, arylcarbonyloxy, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylthio, C_{1-6} alkylsulphinyl, C_{1-6}

alkylsulphonyl, arylsulphonyl, $-NR^VR^W$, $-NR^VCOR^W$, $-NR^VCO_2R^W$, $-NR^VSO_2R^W$, $-CH_2NR^VSO_2R^W$, $-NHCONR^VR^W$, $-CONR^VR^W$, $-SO_2NR^VR^W$ and $-CH_2SO_2NR^VR^W$, in which R^V and R^W independently represent hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, aryl or aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, or R^V and R^W together represent a C_{2-6} alkylene group.

When R^X and R^Y, or R^V and R^W, together represent a C_{2-6} alkylene group, this group may be an ethylene, propylene, butylene, pentamethylene or hexamethylene group, preferably butylene or pentamethylene.

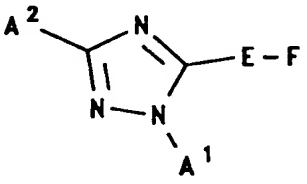
When the group G represents an electron-withdrawing group, this group is suitably cyano, nitro, $-COR^X$, $-CO_2R^X$ or $-SO_2R^X$, in which R^X is as defined above.

The term "halogen" as used herein includes fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine, especially fluorine.

The present invention includes within its scope prodrugs of the compounds of formula I above. In general, such prodrugs will be functional derivatives of the compounds of formula I which are readily convertible in vivo into the required compound of formula I. Conventional procedures for the selection and preparation of suitable prodrug derivatives are described, for example, in "Design of Prodrugs", ed. H. Bundgaard, Elsevier, 1985.

Where the compounds according to the invention have at least one asymmetric centre, they may accordingly exist as enantiomers. Where the compounds according to the invention possess two or more asymmetric centres, they may additionally exist as diastereoisomers. It is to be understood that all such isomers and mixtures thereof are encompassed within the scope of the present invention.

It will be appreciated that the triazole and tetrazole rings of formula I can exist in a variety of canonical forms. These may suitably be represented by formulae IA to IP as follows:



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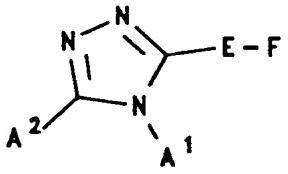

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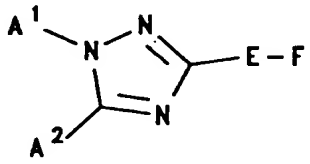

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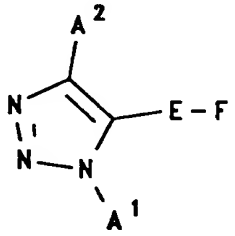

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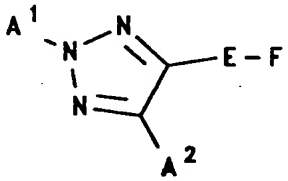

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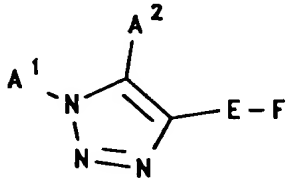

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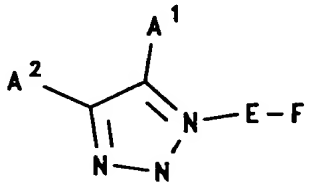

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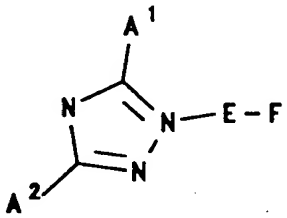

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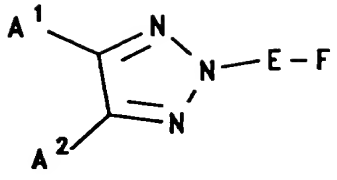

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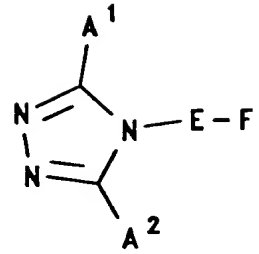

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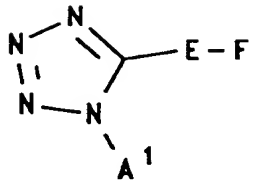

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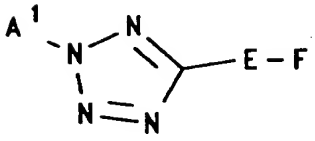

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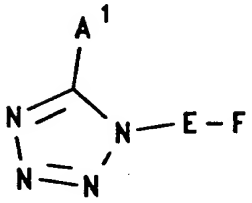

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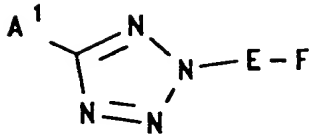


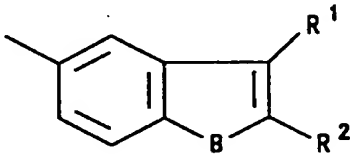
(IP)

wherein A^1, A^2, E and F are as defined above. Preferred triazole and tetrazole rings of formula I include the rings represented by formulae IA, IL and IM above.

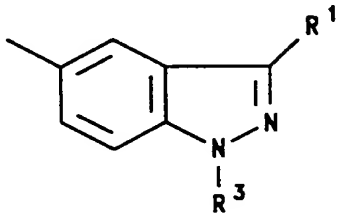
The alkylene chain E may be, for example, methylene, ethylene, 1-methylethylene, propylene or 2-methylpropylene. Alternatively, the group E may

represent a single bond such that the group F in formula I is attached directly to the five-membered heteroaromatic ring.

The group F is suitably an indole, benzofuran or benzthiophene moiety of formula FA, or an indazole moiety of formula FB:

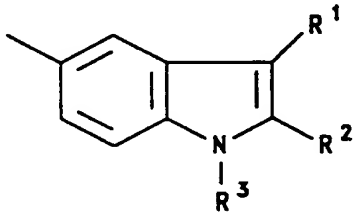


(FA)



(FB)

wherein B, R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined above. Preferably, the group F represents an indole moiety of structure FC:



(FC)

wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are as defined above, in particular wherein R^2 and R^3 are both hydrogen.

It will be appreciated that when four of V, W, X, Y and Z represent nitrogen and the other represents carbon, i.e. when the ring of formula I is a tetrazole ring, then the group A^2 will be a non-bonded electron pair. Otherwise, A^1 and A^2 will independently represent hydrogen, hydrocarbon, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, $-OR^X$, $-SR^X$, $-NR^XR^Y$, $-NR^XCOR^Y$, $-NR^XCO_2R^Y$, $-NR^XSO_2R^Y$ or

$-NR^ZCTNR^XR^Y$.

Suitable values for the groups A^1 and/or A^2 include C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted; and hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio or $-NR^XR^Y$, in which R^X and R^Y are as defined above. Examples of optional substituents on the groups A^1 and/or A^2 suitably include trifluoromethyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl, arylsulphonyl, amino, mono- or di(C_{1-6})alkylamino, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylamino, arylsulphonylamino, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylaminomethyl, aminocarbonylamino, mono- or di(C_{1-6})alkylaminocarbonylamino, mono- or diarylaminocarbonylamino, pyrrolidylcarbonylamino, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(C_{1-6})alkylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylaminosulphonyl, aminosulphonylmethyl, and mono- or di(C_{1-6}) alkylaminosulphonylmethyl.

Particular values of A^1 and/or A^2 include hydrogen, methyl, methoxymethyl, aminomethyl, dimethylaminomethyl, acetylaminomethyl, benzoylaminomethyl, t-butoxycarbonylaminomethyl, methylsulphonylaminomethyl, phenylsulphonylaminomethyl, aminocarbonylmethyl, ethyl, aminoethyl, acetylaminoethyl, benzoylaminoethyl, methoxycarbonylaminoethyl, ethoxycarbonylaminoethyl, t-butoxycarbonylaminoethyl, methylsulphonylaminoethyl, aminocarbonylaminoethyl, methylaminocarbonylaminoethyl, t-butylaminocarbonylaminoethyl, phenylaminocarbonylaminoethyl, pyrrolidylcarbonylaminoethyl, cyclopropyl, phenyl, methylsulphonylaminophenyl, aminocarbonylphenyl,

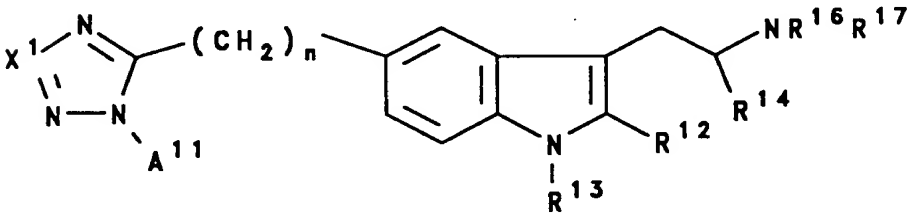
methylaminocarbonylphenyl, methylsulphonylaminomethylphenyl, aminosulphonylmethylphenyl, methylaminosulphonylmethylphenyl, dimethylaminosulphonylmethylphenyl, benzyl, trifluoromethylbenzyl, methoxybenzyl, acetylaminobenzyl, methylsulphonylaminobenzyl, aminocarbonylaminobenzyl, aminocarbonylbenzyl, methylaminocarbonylbenzyl, methylsulphonylbenzyl, methylaminosulphonylbenzyl, pyridylmethyl, methoxypyridylmethyl, amino, methylamino, benzylamino, dimethylamino, t-butoxycarbonylaminoethylamino and methylsulphonylaminoethylamino.

Preferably, at least one of A^1 and/or A^2 is other than hydrogen.

Representative values of R^1 include aminoethyl, N-methylaminoethyl, N,N-dimethylaminoethyl and 1-methyl-4-piperidyl. Preferably, R^1 represents aminoethyl or N,N-dimethylaminoethyl.

Preferred values for the groups R^2 to R^7 are hydrogen and methyl.

A particular sub-class of compounds according to the invention is represented by the compounds of formula IIA, and salts and prodrugs thereof:



(IIA)

wherein

X^1 represents nitrogen or A^{12}-C;

n is zero, 1, 2 or 3;

A^{11} and A^{12} independently represent C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, aryl,

aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted; or hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio or $-NR^xR^y$;

R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{16} and R^{17} independently represent hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

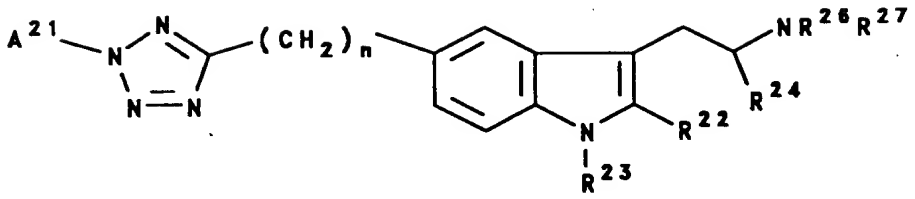
R^x and R^y independently represent hydrogen or hydrocarbon, or R^x and R^y together represent a C_{2-6} alkylene group.

Examples of optional substituents on the groups A^{11} and A^{12} suitably include trifluoromethyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl, arylsulphonyl, amino, mono- or di(C_{1-6})alkylamino, C_{2-6} alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, C_{2-6} alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylamino, arylsulphonylamino, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylaminomethyl, aminocarbonylamino, mono- or di(C_{1-6})alkylaminocarbonylamino, mono- or diarylamino-carbonylamino, pyrrolidylcarbonylamino, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(C_{1-6})alkylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylamino-sulphonyl, aminosulphonylmethyl, and mono- or di(C_{1-6})alkylaminosulphonylmethyl.

Particular values of A^{11} and A^{12} with respect to formula IIA include methyl, benzyl and amino. When X^1 represents A^{12}-C, the group A^{11} is preferably hydrogen.

Preferably, R^{12}, R^{13} and R^{14} each represents hydrogen. Preferred values of R^{16} and R^{17} with respect to formula IIA include hydrogen and methyl.

Another sub-class of compounds according to the invention is represented by the compounds of formula IIB, and salts and prodrugs thereof:



(IIB)

wherein

n is zero, 1, 2 or 3;

A^{21} represents C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted; or hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio or $-NR^XR^Y$;

R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{24}, R^{26} and R^{27} independently represent hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

R^X and R^Y independently represent hydrogen or hydrocarbon, or R^X and R^Y together represent a C_{2-6} alkylene group.

Examples of optional substituents on the group A^{21} correspond to those indicated for the groups A^{11} and A^{12} with respect to formula IIA above. Particular values of A^{21} with respect to formula IIB include methyl and benzyl.

Preferably, R^{22}, R^{23} and R^{24} each represents hydrogen. Preferred values of R^{26} and R^{27} with respect to formula IIB include hydrogen and methyl.

Specific compounds within the scope of the present invention include:

2-[5-(2-benzyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

2-[5-(1-benzyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1-methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(2-methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;
and salts and prodrugs thereof.

The invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising one or more compounds of this invention in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Preferably these compositions are in unit dosage forms such as tablets, pills, capsules, powders, granules, sterile parenteral solutions or suspensions, or suppositories, for oral, parenteral or rectal administration. For preparing solid compositions such as tablets, the principal active ingredient is mixed with a pharmaceutical carrier, e.g. conventional tableting ingredients such as corn starch, lactose, sucrose, sorbitol, talc, stearic acid, magnesium stearate, dicalcium phosphate or gums, and other pharmaceutical diluents, e.g. water, to form a solid preformulation composition containing a homogeneous mixture of a compound of the present invention, or a non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. When referring to these preformulation compositions as homogeneous, it is meant that the active ingredient is dispersed evenly throughout the composition so that the composition may be readily subdivided into equally effective unit dosage forms such as tablets, pills and capsules. This solid preformulation composition is then subdivided into unit dosage forms of the type described above containing from 0.1 to about 500 mg of the active ingredient of the present invention. The tablets or pills of the novel composition can be coated or otherwise

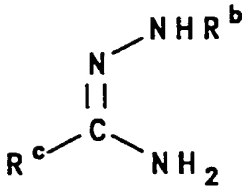
compounded to provide a dosage form affording the advantage of prolonged action. For example, the tablet or pill can comprise an inner dosage and an outer dosage component, the latter being in the form of an envelope over the former. The two components can be separated by an enteric layer which serves to resist disintegration in the stomach and permits the inner component to pass intact into the duodenum or to be delayed in release. A variety of materials can be used for such enteric layers or coatings, such materials including a number of polymeric acids and mixtures of polymeric acids with such materials as shellac, cetyl alcohol and cellulose acetate.

The liquid forms in which the novel compositions of the present invention may be incorporated for administration orally or by injection include aqueous solutions, suitably flavoured syrups, aqueous or oil suspensions, and flavoured emulsions with edible oils such as cottonseed oil, sesame oil, coconut oil or peanut oil, as well as elixirs and similar pharmaceutical vehicles. Suitable dispersing or suspending agents for aqueous suspensions include synthetic and natural gums such as tragacanth, acacia, alginate, dextran, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, polyvinyl-pyrrolidone or gelatin.

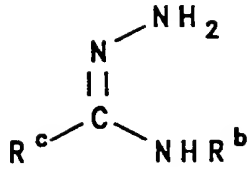
In the treatment of migraine, a suitable dosage level is about 0.01 to 250 mg/kg per day, preferably about 0.05 to 100 mg/kg per day, and especially about 0.05 to 5 mg/kg per day. The compounds may be administered on a regimen of 1 to 4 times per day.

The 1,2,4-triazole compounds of this invention may be prepared by a process which comprises reacting a reactive derivative of a carboxylic acid of formula

R^a-CO_2H with a compound either of formula III or of formula IV, or a salt thereof:



(III)

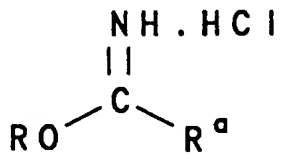


(IV)

wherein one of R^a, R^b and R^c is a group of formula A^1, another is a group of formula A^2, and the third is a group of formula -E-F, as defined with reference to formula I above.

Suitable reactive derivatives of the acid R^a-CO_2H include esters, for example C_{1-4} alkyl esters; thioesters, for example pyridylthioesters; acid anhydrides, for example $(R^a\text{-}CO)_2O$; acid halides, for example acid chlorides; orthoesters; and primary, secondary and tertiary amides.

A preferred reactive derivative of the acid R^a-CO_2H is the iminoether derivative of formula V:



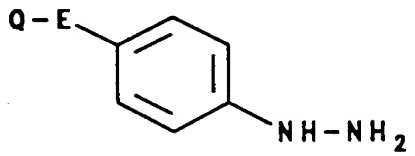
(V)

where R is C_{1-4} alkyl.

The reaction is conveniently carried out by heating the reagents together, optionally in a solvent, for example tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide or a lower

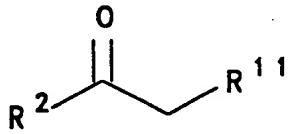
alkanol such as ethanol, propanol or isopropanol, at about 20°C to 100°C for about 1 to 6 hours.

Where R^a is a group of formula -E-F and the group F is an indole moiety of structure FC as defined above, the reactive derivative of a carboxylic acid of formula HO_2C-E-F may be prepared by reacting a compound of formula VI:



(VI)

wherein Q represents a reactive carboxylate moiety, and E is as defined above; with a compound of formula VII or a carbonyl-protected form thereof:



(VII)

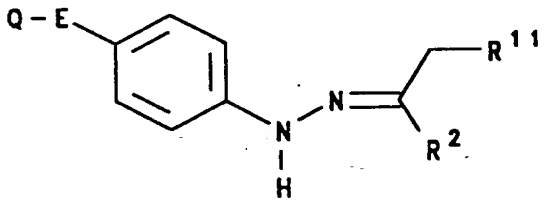
wherein R^2 is as defined above and R^{11} corresponds to the group R^1 as defined above or represents a group of formula $-CH_2.CHR^4D^1$, in which R^4 is as defined above and D^1 represents a readily displaceable group; followed, where required, by N-alkylation by standard methods to introduce the moiety R^3.

Suitable carbonyl-protected forms of the compounds of formula VII include the dimethyl acetal or ketal derivatives.

The readily displaceable group D^1 in the compounds of formula VII suitably represents a halogen

group, preferably chlorine. When the moiety R^{11} in the compounds of formula VII is a group of formula $-CH_2.CHR^4D^1$, the substituent D^1 is displaced <u>in situ</u> under the prevailing reaction conditions to afford a final product of formula I wherein R^1 represents a group of formula $-CH_2.CHR^4.NH_2$. The terminal amino group can subsequently, if desired, be further elaborated using techniques known from the art to give a compound of formula I wherein R^1 represents the required group of formula $-CH_2.CHR^4.NR^6R^7$.

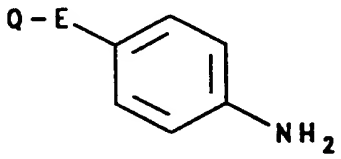
The reaction of compounds VI and VII may be carried out in a single step (Fischer indole synthesis) or by an initial non-cyclising step at a lower temperature to give a compound of formula VIII:



(VIII)

wherein Q, E, R^2 and R^{11} are as defined above; followed by cyclisation using a suitable reagent, such as a polyphosphate ester, to give a compound of formula Q-E-F.

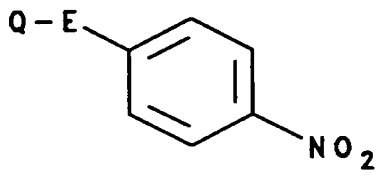
The hydrazines of formula VI may be prepared from the corresponding anilines of formula IX:



(IX)

wherein Q and E are as defined above; by diazotisation followed by reduction. Diazotisation is typically carried out using sodium nitrite/conc. HCl and the resulting diazo product reduced <u>in situ</u> using, for example, tin(II) chloride/conc. HCl.

The anilines of formula IX may be prepared by reduction of the corresponding nitro compounds of formula X:

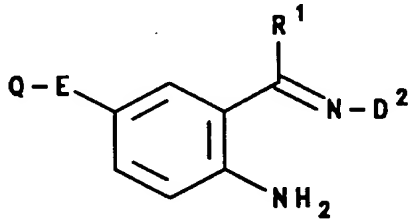


(X)

wherein Q and E are as defined above; typically by catalytic hydrogenation or using tin(II) chloride.

Where they are not commercially available, the nitro compounds of formula X may be synthesized by standard methods well known to those skilled in the art.

Where R^a is a group of formula -E-F and the group F is an indazole moiety of structure FB as defined above, the reactive derivative of a carboxylic acid of formula HO_2C-E-F may be prepared by the cyclisation of a compound of formula XI:

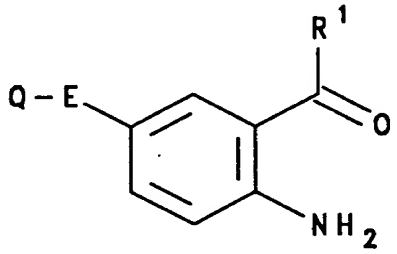


(XI)

wherein Q, E and R^1 are as defined above; and D^2 represents a readily displaceable group; followed, where required, by N-alkylation by standard methods to introduce the moiety R^3.

The cyclisation of compound XI is conveniently achieved in a suitable organic solvent at an elevated temperature, for example in a mixture of m-xylene and 2,6-lutidine at a temperature in the region of 140°C.

The readily displaceable group D^2 in the compounds of formula XI suitably represents a C_{1-4} alkanoyloxy group, preferably acetoxy. Where D^2 in the desired compound of formula XI represents acetoxy, this compound may be conveniently prepared by treating a carbonyl compound of formula XII:



(XII)

wherein R^1, E and Q are as defined above; or a protected derivative thereof; with hydroxylamine hydrochloride, advantageously in pyridine at the reflux temperature of the solvent; followed by acetylation with acetic anhydride, advantageously in the presence of a catalytic quantity of 4-dimethylaminopyridine, in dichloromethane at room temperature.

The N-formyl protected derivative of the intermediate of formula XII may be conveniently prepared by ozonolysis of an indole derivative of formula XIII:

reagents A^2Li; or compounds which stabilise the anion by means of an adjacent activating group such as an ester or enolisable ketone function. In this case, the adjacent ester or ketone function may be retained after the process is complete, or may be removed. For example, an ester moiety may be hydrolysed and decarboxylated.

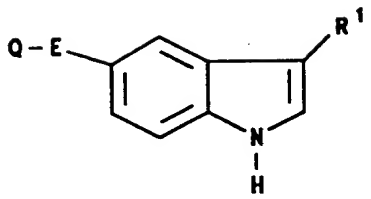
The 1,2,3-triazole compounds according to the present invention may be prepared by a process which comprises the cycloaddition of an alkyne of formula $R^a-C\equiv C-R^b$ with an azide of formula R^c-N_3, where R^a, R^b and R^c are as defined above.

The cycloaddition reaction may be conveniently effected in a suitable solvent such as tetrahydrofuran, ideally by heating in an autoclave for 8 hours.

The tetrazole compounds in accordance with the invention may be prepared by a process which comprises the cycloaddition of a nitrile of formula $N\equiv C-R^d$ with an azide of formula R^e-N_3, where one of R^d and R^e represents a group of formula A^1 and the other is a group of formula -E-F, as defined previously.

The cycloaddition reaction is conveniently effected by heating the reactants together at an elevated temperature, e.g. a temperature in the region of 150°C, in a suitable solvent such as N-methylpyrrolid-2-one, advantageously in the presence of triethylamine hydrochloride. The product obtained from the cycloaddition reaction will generally be a mixture of isomers substituted by the A^1 group at positions 1 and 2 of the tetrazole ring, corresponding to structures IL and IM respectively as defined above. These isomers may conveniently be separated using conventional techniques such as chromatography.

In an alternative process, the tetrazole compounds of the invention may be prepared by a method

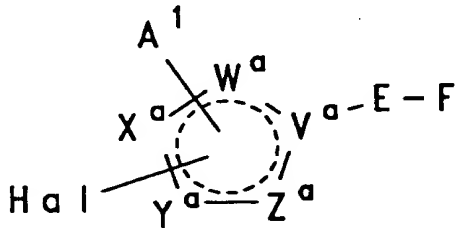


(XIII)

wherein R^1, E and Q are as defined above; followed by a reductive work-up, advantageously using dimethylsulphide.

The indole derivative of formula XIII may be prepared by methods analogous to those described in the accompanying Examples, or by procedures well known from the art.

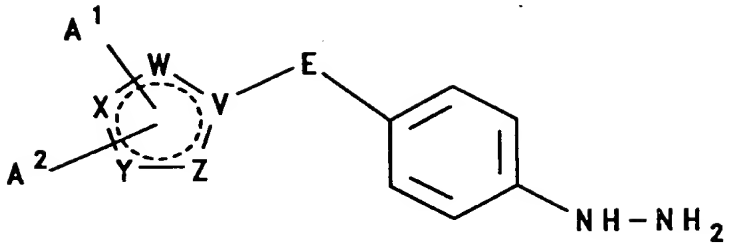
In an alternative process, the triazole compounds according to the invention may be prepared by a method which comprises reacting a compound of formula XIV:



(XIV)

wherein A^1, E and F are as defined above, Hal represents halogen, and two of V^a, W^a, X^a, Y^a and Z^a, to one of which the group Hal is attached, represent carbon and the remainder represent nitrogen; with a reagent which provides an anion $^-A^2$, where A^2 is as previously defined.

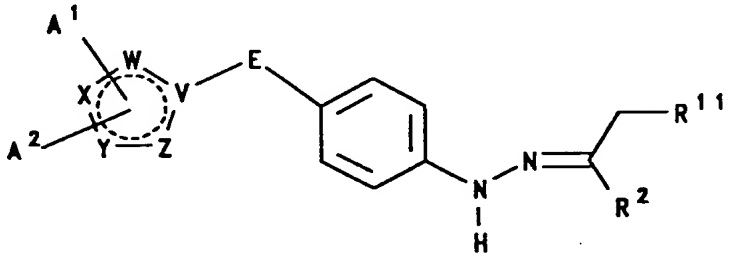
Reagents which may provide the anion $^-A^2$ include Grignard reagents A^2MgHal (where Hal = halogen); organocuprate reagents such as $LiA^2{}_2Cu$; organolithium



(XVI)

wherein V, W, X, Y, Z, A^1, A^2 and E are as defined above; with a compound of formula VII as defined above, or a carbonyl-protected form thereof, e.g. the dimethyl acetal or ketal; followed, where required, by N-alkylation by standard methods to introduce the moiety R^3.

As with that between compounds VI and VII, the reaction between compounds XVI and VII may be carried out in a single step (Fischer indole synthesis) or by an initial non-cyclising step at a lower temperature to give a compound of formula XVII:

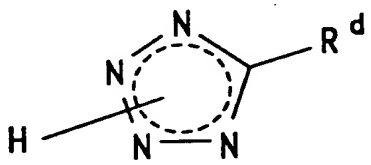


(XVII)

wherein V, W, X, Y, Z, A^1, A^2, E, R^2 and R^{11} are as defined above; followed by cyclisation using a suitable reagent, e.g. a polyphosphate ester.

The hydrazines of formula XVI may be prepared from the corresponding anilines of formula XVIII:

which comprises reacting a compound of formula R^e-L with a tetrazole derivative of formula XV:



(XV)

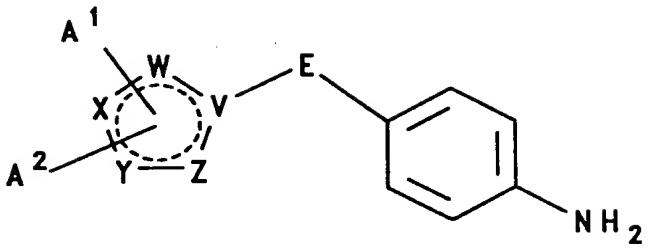
wherein one of R^d and R^e represents a group of formula A^1 and the other is a group of formula -E-F, as defined above, and L represents a suitable leaving group; in the presence of a base such as triethylamine.

The leaving group L suitably represents halogen, e.g. bromine or iodine, or a sulphonate derivative such as tosylate or mesylate.

The reaction is conveniently carried out in a suitable organic solvent, e.g. acetonitrile, at room temperature.

The tetrazole derivatives of formula XV may be prepared by cycloaddition of a nitrile of formula $N\equiv C-R^d$ with sodium azide, advantageously under the conditions described above for the reaction between the nitrile $N\equiv C-R^d$ and the azide R^e-N_3; followed by acidification with a mineral acid such as hydrochloric acid.

In a further process, the compounds according to the invention may be prepared by a method which comprises reacting a compound of formula XVI:

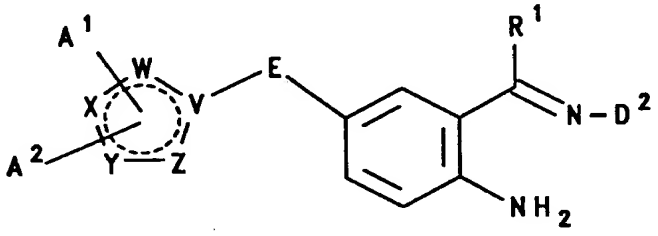


(XVIII)

wherein V, W, X, Y, Z, A^1, A^2 and E are as defined above; by methods analogous to those described above with reference to the compounds of formula IX.

The anilines of formula XVIII may be prepared from those of formula IX above by appropriate modification of the moiety Q using, for example, methods analogous to those described above with reference to the compounds of formulae III and IV. Thus, for example, since Q in the compounds of formula IX represents a reactive carboxylate moiety, the compounds of formula XVIII may be prepared therefrom by reaction with a compound of formula A^2-C(=NNHA^1)NH_2 or A^2-C(=NNH_2)NHA^1.

In a still further process, the compounds according to the invention may be prepared by a method which comprises cyclising a compound of formula XIX:

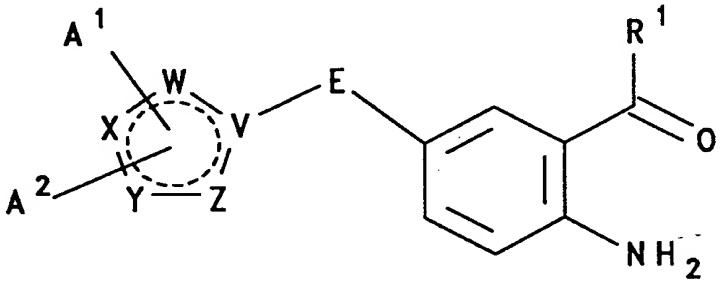


(XIX)

wherein V, W, X, Y, Z, A^1, A^2, E, R^1 and D^2 are as defined above; followed, where required, by N-alkylation by standard methods to introduce the moiety R^3.

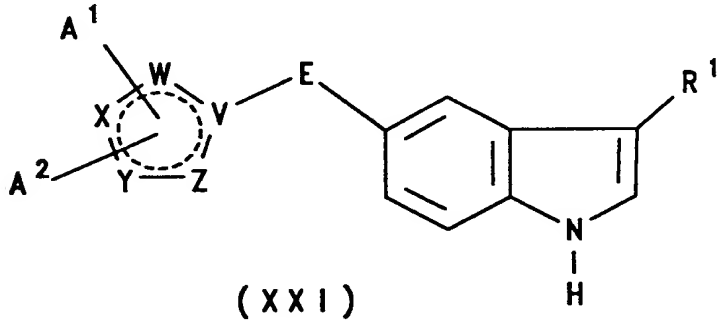
As with the cyclisation of compound X, that of compound XIX is conveniently achieved in a suitable organic solvent at an elevated temperature, for example in a mixture of m-xylene and 2,6-lutidine at a temperature in the region of 140°C.

The compounds of formula XIX may, for example, be prepared from the corresponding compound of formula XX:



(XX)

wherein V, W, X, Y, Z, A^1, A^2, E and R^1 are as defined above; or a protected derivative thereof; which in turn may be prepared from the corresponding compound of formula XXI:



(XXI)

wherein V, W, X, Y, Z, A^1, A^2, E and R^1 are as defined above; using methods analogous to those described above with reference to the compounds of formulae XII and XIII. Thus, for example, since Q in the compounds of formula XIII represents a reactive carboxylate moiety, the compounds of formula XXI may be prepared therefrom by reaction with a compound of formula A^2-C(=NNHA^1)NH_2 or A^2-C(=NNH_2)NHA^1.

It will be understood that any compound of formula I initially obtained from any of the above processes may, where appropriate, subsequently be elaborated into a further compound of formula I by techniques known from the art. Indeed, as will be appreciated, the compound of formula XV above is itself a compound of formula I in which A^1 is hydrogen and A^2 represents a non-bonded electron pair. In particular, a compound of formula I wherein R^3 is hydrogen initially obtained may be converted into a compound of formula I wherein R^3 represents C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl or C_{2-6} alkynyl by standard techniques such as alkylation, for example by treatment with an alkyl iodide, e.g. methyl iodide, typically under basic conditions, e.g. sodium hydride in dimethylformamide, or triethylamine in acetonitrile. Similarly, a compound of formula I wherein R^1 represents a group of formula -CH_2.CHR^4.NH_2 initially obtained may be converted into a compound of formula I wherein R^1 represents a group of formula -CH_2.CHR^4.NR^6R^7 in which R^6 and R^7 are as defined above with the exception of hydrogen, for example by conventional N-alkylation or N-arylation techniques, e.g. by treatment with the appropriate aldehyde in the presence of a reducing agent such as sodium cyanoborohydride.

Where the above-described processes for the preparation of the compounds according to the invention

give rise to mixtures of stereoisomers, these isomers may be separated by conventional techniques such as preparative chromatography.

The novel compounds may be prepared in racemic form, or individual enantiomers may be prepared either by enantiospecific synthesis or by resolution. The novel compounds may, for example, be resolved into their component enantiomers by standard techniques, such as the formation of diastereomeric pairs by salt formation with an optically active acid, such as (-)-di-p-toluoyl-d-tartaric acid and/or (+)-di-p-toluoyl-l-tartaric acid followed by fractional crystallization and regeneration of the free base. The novel compounds may also be resolved by formation of diastereomeric esters or amides, followed by chromatographic separation and removal of the chiral auxiliary.

During any of the above synthetic sequences it may be necessary and/or desirable to protect sensitive or reactive groups on any of the molecules concerned. This may be achieved by means of conventional protecting groups, such as those described in Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry, ed. J.F.W. McOmie, Plenum Press, 1973; and T.W. Greene, Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis, John Wiley & Sons, 1981. The protecting groups may be removed at a convenient subsequent stage using methods known from the art.

The following Examples illustrate the preparation of compounds according to the invention.

The ability of test compounds to bind to 5-HT_1-like receptors was measured in membranes prepared from pig caudate using the procedure described in J. Neurosci., 1987, 7, 894. Binding was determined using 2 nM 5-hydroxytryptamine creatinine sulphate, 5-[1,2-^{3}H(N)] as a radioligand. Cyanopindolol (100 nM)

and mesulergine (100 nM) were included in the assay to block out 5-HT_{1A} and 5-HT_{1C} binding sites respectively. The concentration of the compounds of the accompanying Examples required to displace 50% of the specific binding (IC_{50}) is below 1 μM in each case.

The activity of test compounds as agonists of the 5-HT_1-like receptor was measured in terms of their ability to mediate contraction of the saphenous vein of New Zealand White rabbits, using the procedure described in Arch. Pharm., 1990, 342, 111. Agonist potencies were calculated as $-\log_{10}EC_{50}$ (pEC_{50}) values, from plots of percentage 5-HT (1 μm) response against the concentration of the agonist. The compounds of the accompanying Examples were found to possess pEC_{50} values in this assay of not less than 5.0 in each case.

EXAMPLE 1

2-[5-(2-Benzyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine. Oxalate

1. 4-Hydrazinobenzylcyanide. Hydrochloride

A solution of $NaNO_2$ (80g, 1.16mol) was added dropwise to a cooled (-10°C), stirred, suspension of 4-aminobenzyl cyanide (153.5g, 1.16mol) in concentrated HCl (1500ml), at such a rate that the temperature did not rise above -10°C. The mixture was stirred at -10°C for 0.25h before being filtered rapidly under vacuum into an addition funnel. The solution was added portionwise over a 0.25h period to a rapidly stirred mixture of $SnCl_2.2H_2O$ (1.05kg, 4.64mol) in concentrated HCl (800ml) keeping the temperature below -5°C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stir for 0.25h before filtering the sandy coloured precipitate under vacuum and washing with ether (5 x 500ml). The resultant solid was dried over P_2O_5 in a vacuum oven (80°C) for 16h to give the title compound (213g, 100%), m.p. 181-183°C; ^1H NMR (360MHz, D_2O) δ 3.90 (2H, s, CH_2); 7.06 (2H, d, J = 8.7Hz, Ar-H); 7.40 (2H, d, J = 8.7Hz, Ar-H).

2. 2-(5-Cyanomethyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethylamine. Hydrochloride

4-Chlorobutanal dimethylacetal (37.07g, 0.24mol) was added to a stirred solution of 4-hydrazinobenzyl cyanide hydrochloride (47.0g, 0.26mol) in EtOH/H_2O (5:1; 21) and refluxed for 4.5h. The reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness under vacuum, MeOH (150ml) added, and the mixture left at 0°C for 10h. The resultant pale yellow precipitate was filtered under vacuum, washed with Et_2O/MeOH (5:1; 2 x 100ml) and dried. The product was used without further purification (24.1g, 40%), m.p. 239-241°C; R_f 0.4 in CH_2Cl_2/EtOH/NH_3 (40:8:1); ^1H NMR (360MHz, D_2O) 3.18 (2H, t, J = 7.1Hz, CH_2); 3.36 (2H, t, J = 7.1Hz, CH_2); 4.02 (2H, s, CH_2); 7.22 (1H, dd, J = 1.5 and 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.36 (1H, s, Ar-H); 7.56 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.66 (1H, s, Ar-H).

3. 2-(5-Tetrazol-5-ylmethyl-1H-indol-3-yl) ethylamine

A solution of 2-(5-cyanomethyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethylamine hydrochloride (2.5g, 10.6mmol), triethylamine hydrochloride (2.2g, 16.0mmol) and sodium azide (2.1g, 32.3mmol), in 1-methylpyrrolidin-2-one (30ml) was heated at 140°C for 8h. 5N hydrochloric acid (3ml) was added and the solvents removed by distillation under vacuum. The residue was chromatographed on silica-gel eluting with EtOH/Et_2O/H_2O/NH_3 (20:30:8:1) to give the title-tetrazole (1.76g, 69%); δ (360MHz, CD_3OD) 3.06 (2H, t, J = 7.2Hz, CH_2); 3.19 (2H, t, J = 7.2Hz, CH_2); 4.29 (2H, s,

CH_2); 7.07 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.13 (1H, s, Ar-H); 7.29 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.44 (1H, s, Ar-H).

4. N-tert-Butyloxycarbonyl-2-(5-tetrazol-5-ylmethyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethylamine

To a stirred suspension of 2-(5-tetrazol-5-ylmethyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethylamine (1.76g, 7.27mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (40ml) was added triethylamine (1.5g, 14.9mmol) and $(BOC)_2O$ (1.9g, 7.3mmol) and the mixture stirred for 16h. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue chromatographed on silica-gel eluting with $EtOH/Et_2O/H_2O/NH_3$ (20:60:8:1) to give the title product (1.6g, 64%); δ (360MHz, CD_3OD) 1.41 (9H, s, 3 of CH_3); 2.87 (2H, t, J = 7.4Hz, CH_2); 3.30 (2H, t, J = 7.4Hz, CH_2); 4.32 (2H, s, CH_2); 6.99 (1H, d, J = 8.3Hz, Ar-H); 7.04 (1H, s, Ar-H); 7.26 (1H, d, J = 8.3Hz, Ar-H); 7.49 (1H, s, Ar-H).

5. N-tert-Butyloxycarbonyl-2-[5-(2-benzyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine and N-tert-butyloxycarbonyl-2-[5-(1-benzyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine

Benzyl bromide (0.31g, 1.8mmol) was added to a solution of the tetrazole from step 4 (0.62g, 1.8mmol), and triethylamine (0.37g, 3.6mmol) in dry acetonitrile (20ml). The mixture was stirred at R.T. for 2h, heated at 70°C for 1h and then stirred at

R.T. for 16h. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue chromatographed through silica-gel eluting with CH_2Cl_2/MeOH (97:3) to give 2-separated benzyl tetrazoles. The less polar isomer was identified as the 2-benzyl tetrazole (0.17g, 22.4%); δ (360MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.43 (9H, s, 3 of CH_3); 2.90 (2H, t, J = 6.8Hz, CH_2); 3.41 (2H, br t, CH_2); 4.32 (2H, s, CH_2); 5.70 (2H, s, $C\underline{H}_2Ph$); 7.00 (1H, s, Ar-H); 7.15 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.28 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.34 (5H, s, Ar-H); 7.50 (1H, s, Ar-H); 7.96 (1H, br s, NH).

The more polar component was identified as the 1-benzyltetrazole (0.2g, 26.4%) δ (360MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.43 (9H, s, 3 of CH_3); 2.88 (2H, t, J = 7.0Hz, CH_2); 3.40 (1H, br t, CH_2); 4.26 (2H, s, CH_2); 5.29 (2H, s, $C\underline{H}_2$-Ph); 6.92 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.01-7.05 (3H, m, Ar-H); 7.27-7.30 (5H, m, Ar-H); 8.08 (1H, br s, NH).

6. 2-[5-(2-Benzyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine. Oxalate

Trifluoroacetic acid (1.5ml) was added to a solution of the less polar component isolated from step 5 (0.17g, 0.4mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (5ml) and stirred at R.T. for 1h. The solvents were removed under vacuum and the residue chromatographed through silica-gel eluting with CH_2Cl_2/EtOH/NH_3 (40:8:1) to give the title-tetrazole. The oxalate salt was prepared (65mg); mp 169-171°C; (Found: C, 59.23; H, 5.07; N, 19.60.

$C_{19}H_{20}N_6.1.05\ (C_2H_2O_4)$ requires C, 59.36; H, 5.22; N, 19.68%); δ (360MHz, D_2O) 3.09 (2H, t, J = 6.9Hz, CH_2); 3.29 (2H, t, J = 6.9Hz, CH_2); 4.30 (2H, s, CH_2); 5.77 (2H, s, CH_2); 7.11 (1H, dd, J = 1.6 and 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.28 (1H, s, Ar-H); 7.32-7.34 and 7.39-7.41 (5H, m, Ar-H); 7.43 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.51 (1H, s, Ar-H).

EXAMPLE 2

2-[5-(1-Benzyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine. Hydrochloride. Hemihydrate

Prepared from the more polar component isolated from step 5, Example 1, using the procedure described for step 6, Example 1. The hydrochloride hemihydrate salt was prepared; mp 210-213°C; (Found: C, 60.39; H, 5.88; N, 22.14. $C_{19}H_{20}N_6.HCl.0.5H_2O$ requires C, 60.39; H, 5.87; N, 22.24%); δ (250MHz, D_2O) 3.02 (2H, t, J = 6.8Hz, CH_2); 3.19 (2H, t, J = 6.8Hz, CH_2); 4.44 (2H, s, CH_2); 5.60 (2H, s, CH_2); 6.95-7.02 (3H, m, Ar-H); 7.16-7.25 (4H, m, Ar-H); 7.28 (1H, s, Ar-H); 7.40 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H).

EXAMPLE 3

N,N-Dimethyl-2-[5-(2-methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine. Oxalate

1. N-tert-Butyloxycarbonyl-2-[5-(2-methyltetrazol-5-

ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine and N-tert-butyloxycarbonyl-2-[5-(1-methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine

Methyl iodide (0.44g, 3.1mmol) was added to a stirred solution of the tetrazole from step 4, Example 1 (0.95g, 2.78mmol) and triethylamine (0.56g, 5.5mmol) in dry acetonitrile (15ml). After 10h a further equivalent of methyl iodide was added and stirred for 16h. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue chromatographed on silica-gel eluting with CH_2Cl_2/MeOH (97:3) to give the title mixture of 1- and 2-methyltetrazoles (0.6g, 61%); δ (360MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.43 (9H, m, 3 of CH_3); 2.89-2.92 (2H, m, CH_2); 3.38-3.48 (2H, m, CH_2); 3.83 (2H, s, CH_2); 4.28 and 4.40 (total 3H, s, CH_3); 6.98 and 7.17 (total 1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.02 and 7.06 (total 1H, s, Ar-H); 7.30 and 7.31 (total 1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.43 and 7.54 (total 1H, s, Ar-H); 8.00 and 8.10 (total 1H, br s, NH).

2. 2-[5-(2-Methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine and 2-[5-(1-methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine

Prepared from the preceding methyltetrazoles using the procedure described in step 6, Example 1. The crude product was chromatographed on silica-gel eluting with CH_2Cl_2/EtOH/NH_3 (40:8:1) to give 2 separated components. The less polar product (0.1g, 24%) was identified as the 2-

methyltetrazole; δ (360MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.38 (9H, s, 3 of CH_3); 2.88 (2H, t, J = 6.6Hz, CH_2); 3.00 (2H, t, J = 6.6Hz, CH_2); 4.28 (3H, s, CH_3); 4.33 (2H, s, CH_2); 7.00 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.06 (1H, d, J = 2.1Hz, Ar-H); 7.17 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.56 (1H, s, Ar-H); 8.04 (1H, br s, NH).

The more polar product (0.13g, 31%) was identified as the 1-methyltetrazole; δ (360MHz, $CDCl_3$) 1.38 (9H, s, 3 of CH_3); 2.86 (2H, t, J = 6.6Hz, CH_2); 3.00 (2H, t, J = 6.6Hz, CH_2); 3.82 (3H, s, CH_3); 4.40 (2H, s, CH_2); 6.98 (1H, dd, J = 1.6 and 8.3Hz, Ar-H); 7.06 (1H, d, J = 1.6Hz, Ar-H); 7.31 (1H, d, J = 8.3Hz, Ar-H); 7.41 (1H, s, Ar-H); 8.18 (1H, br s, NH).

3. N,N-Dimethyl-2-[5-(2-methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine. Oxalate

A solution of formaldehyde (80mg of a 30% solution) in methanol (15ml) was added to a stirred solution of 2-[5-(2-methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine (0.1g, 0.4mmol), $NaCNBH_3$ (60mg) and glacial acetic acid (0.12g) in methanol (15ml). The solution was stirred for 2h, basified with K_2CO_3 solution and the MeOH removed under vacuum. The crude product obtained after extraction into ethylacetate and removal of solvent was chromatographed through silica-gel eluting with CH_2Cl_2/EtOH/NH_3 (40:8:1) to give the desired N,N-dimethyltryptamine (96mg, 87%). The oxalate salt was prepared: mp 185-187°C (MeOH/Et_2O); (Found: C, 54.42; H,

5.74; N, 22.53. $C_{15}H_{20}N_6.C_2H_2O_4$ requires C, 54.54; H, 5.92; N, 22.45%); δ (360MHz, D_2O) 2.91 (6H, s, 2 of CH_3); 3.21 (2H, t, J = 7.4Hz, CH_2); 3.47 (2H, t, J = 7.4Hz, CH_2); 4.30 (3H, s, CH_3); 4.34 (2H, s, CH_2); 7.17 (1H, dd, J = 1.5 and 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.33 (1H, s, Ar-H); 7.48 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.59 (1H, s, Ar-H).

EXAMPLE 4

N,N-Dimethyl-2-[5-(1-methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine. Oxalate

Prepared from 2-[5-(1-methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine (0.125g, 0.49mmol) using the procedure described in step 3, Example 3. The free base (0.11g, 80%) obtained was converted to the oxalate salt and recrystallised from MeOH/Et_2O; mp 176-177°C; (Found: C, 54.21; H, 5.84; N, 22.36. $C_{15}H_{20}N_6.C_2H_2O_4$ requires C, 54.54; H, 5.92; N, 22.45%); δ (360MHz, D_2O); 2.91 (6H, s, 2 of CH_3); 3.21 (2H, t, J = 7.4Hz, CH_2); 3.40 (2H, t, J = 7.4Hz, CH_2); 4.00 (3H, s, CH_3); 4.43 (2H, s, CH_2); 7.13 (1H, dd, J = 1.5 and 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.35 (1H, s, Ar-H); 7.50 (1H, d, J = 8.4Hz, Ar-H); 7.54 (1H, s, Ar-H).